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ENG 1091G-099: Composition and Rhetoric

Michael Loudon
Eastern Illinois University

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1091G-099

Honors Composition and Rhetoric
English 1091G Section 099
Michael Loudon (email: mdloudon@eiu.edu)
Office: CH 3361 / Phone: 581-6312

Fall 2010
TR 3:30(1530)-4:45(1645)
Coleman 3609
Hours: TR 1:00-2:00; W 1:00-3:00

Course Description: This course will offer practice in several modes of discourse, including expression, reflection, analysis and persuasion. Such modes of discourse, or rhetorical strategies for language to organize thought, are, for all practical purposes, also ways of thinking critically. While the emphasis is primarily on expository and persuasive writing, the course will also offer an extensive review of and practice in grammar, mechanics, sentence structure and paragraph organization.

To assist the development of critical thinking and writing at the honors level, we shall engage in the critical reading of three texts on women's global issues, AIDS in Africa and the continuing presence of genocide even at the onset of the new century.

Our focus will be on the process and of composition: how we begin, invent, present and develop, organize and expand, draft, revise, document, edit and proofread. We shall aspire to writing that is clear, concise, coherent, intelligent and imaginative.

Texts and materials:

Goldhagen, Daniel. *Worse than War*. Public Affairs, 2010.

Hall, Donald and Sven Birkerts. *Writing Well*. Longman Classics 9th ed.

Kristof, Nicholas D. and Sheryl WuDunn. *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression into Opportunity for Women Worldwide*. NY: Random House/Borzoi, 2009.

Steinberg, Jonny. *Sizwe's Test: A Young Man's Journey through Africa's AIDS Epidemic*. NY: Simon & Schuster, 2008.

Fowler, et. al. *The Little, Brown Handbook* (11th ed)

A dictionary—any current edition, online or in hard copy

A journal (preferably bound if handwritten and legible!)

A folder with pockets: keep all assignments, exercises, handouts, drafts, graded essays, *syllabus* and so on until the completion of the course...copies of formally submitted essays are a good idea—electronic or hardcopy or both—for your own protection.

Handouts (distributed in class)

Course format: I shall use discussion as the primary means of coming to terms with the course readings and offer mini-lectures to provide views supplemental to those in the texts. Exercises, in-class and as assigned homework, will be used on an ongoing basis as necessary. Small group workshops will be used to develop revision skills. Conferences are optional—unless specifically requested in which case they are mandatory. Please note that the *syllabus* is merely a guide and subject to change to suit whatever needs arise: if you cannot attend, you should check with a classmate or me to keep track of any changes.

I encourage you to request a conference whenever you feel that one might be useful in improving your writing abilities or enhancing your participation in the course. Those of you who discover lingering, particularly troublesome problems should make use of the Writing Center (Coleman Hall 3110 [301]) and may be requested to do so.

Course requirements and grading:

Mode of discourse and length:

Due date: % of Grade:

Essays: #1: Expression (2-3 pp)

R 9/9 5%

#2: Reflection (2-3 pp)

R 9/16 5%

#3: Description (2-3 pp)	R 9/23	5%	
#4: Narration (3-4 pp)	R 10/7	10%	
#5: Process analysis (3-4 pp)	R 10/21	10%	
#6: Definition (3-4 pp)	R 11/4	10%	
#7: Comparison and contrast (3-4 pp)	R 11/18	10%	
#8: Argument and persuasion (5-6 pp)	R 12/9	15%	= 70%

Journal: Throughout the semester, and on at least a weekly basis (more frequently will be better practice), you should develop 45-50 pages in which you practice expressive and reflective writing. Record details of your observations about anything that interests you; reflect on and focus them; explore and expand on your ideas; probe your feelings; elaborate your "hunches and notions." I shall evaluate the journal as draft writing—no revision is necessary. You may keep them on a computer but have a back-up copy, and print it out periodically or as requested for submission. You may keep a handwritten journal, but it must be legible if you wish credit for it. **These journals are confidential and will be shown to no one else.**

These will be requested periodically throughout the semester with at least one class day's notice—you do not need to bring them to class.

Final submission is on Thursday, December 9. (15%)

Participation and involvement: Ongoing evaluation (15%)

This component of the grading includes exercises, quizzes, participation in workshops and discussions, thoroughness of revision, degree of improvement, and other minor but crucial tasks and considerations as are pertinent to the constant and consistent development of your writing skills. Attendance, in this respect, would seem a necessity for your participation.

General Policies:

Grading Standards: I shall follow the EIU English Department Guidelines, distributed in class. I shall use the plus and minus to distinguish, say, a high *B* from a low one.

Attendance: I do take roll and I evaluate attendance only indirectly in the context of your participation in the course.

Conferences: These are at your request unless I ask to see you. Please ask for help as soon as you feel you need it; please don't wait until the last couple of weeks of class.

Submission of work: Essays should be typed [printed], double-spaced, on one side of the paper only, titled and indicate the following: name, date, and course and section number. Exercises and quizzes must be legible.

Late Essays: For each day that the essay is late, the letter grade will fall by one full grade: an *A* essay due on Friday will be an *F* by the next Thursday. If there are particular difficulties, please see me.

Electronic Writing Portfolio (EWP):

English 1091G is a writing intensive course. **This means that you may need to submit an essay from this course for your EWP.** If so, you must inform me no later than the last week of class—EWP submissions are not accepted after completion of the course, and **you are responsible** for consulting the web site of Center for Academic Support and Achievement for instructions. See <http://www.eiu/~assess> for more information and to download submission forms.

Plagiarism: The English Department Policy

Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and the representation of them as one's own original work" (*Random House Dictionary of the English Language*)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of *F* for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.

If I discover an act of plagiarism, I shall exercise the right to the fullest extent possible. (See <http://www.eiu/~judicial/code.html> for more information.)

Please note: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.